

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 14314 01 OF 02 261427Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 DHA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02

INR-07 L-03 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /079 W

-----070981 261437Z /43

O 261418Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7700

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 14314

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW), RH, UK, US

SUBJECT: BRITISH PRESS ON OWEN-YOUNG MISSION

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF STORY ON OWEN-YOUNG MISSION  
APPEARING IN AUGUST 26 "TIMES". STORY IS DATELINED  
SALISBURY AUGUST 25 "FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT". SIMILAR  
STORIES ALSO APPEAR IN "TELEGRAPH" AND "GUARDIAN".

2. BEGIN TEXT: THERE HAS BEEN A COLD RECEPTION FROM  
THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT FOR WHAT ARE SAID TO BE THE  
MAIN POINTS OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS FOR A CON-  
STITUTIONAL SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA.  
MR. MARK PARTRIDGE, THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, SAID  
THIS EVENING THAT ANY SUGGESTION THAT THE ARMED FORCES  
SHOULD BE DISBANDED WAS "TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE" TO THE  
GOVERNMENT. THE IDEA THAT THEY SHOULD BE MERGED WITH  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LONDON 14314 01 OF 02 261427Z

AFRICAN NATIONALIST GUERRILLA FORCES OR THAT THEY SHOULD  
BE REPLACED BY SOME PEACEKEEPING FORCE WAS EQUALLY OUT  
OF THE QUESTION.

SPEAKING IN A RADIO INTERVIEW MR. PARTRIDGE SAID:

"I DON'T BELIEVE THAT ANY BRITISH SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS  
WILL PROVE TO BE ACCEPTABLE."

THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROPOSALS WERE LEAKED BY

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SOURCES TO AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS ATTENDING THE ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE IN LAGOS THIS WEEK.

IN ESSENCE THEY ARE SAID TO BE: MR. SMITH TO STEP DOWN FROM POWER; BRITAIN TO APPOINT AN ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL; ELECTIONS TO TAKE PLACE ON A BASIS OF UNIVERSAL ADULT SUFFRAGE WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL NATIONALIST GROUPS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE BRITISH ADMINISTRATION; THE EXISTING RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES TO BE DISBANDED AND THE GUERRILLA FORCES DISARMED WITH A NEW SECURITY FORCE BEING FORMED BY THE NEWLY ELECTED BLACK MAJORITY GOVERNMENT; THE DEAL TO BE SUPPORTED BY A \$1,000M (\$70M POUNDS) DEVELOPMENT FUND PROVIDED FROM UNITED STATES AND EUROPEAN SOURCES; AND INCENTIVES TO PERSUADE WHITE RHODESIANS TO STAY.

THESE ELEMENTS CONTAIN NO SURPRISES. THEY CLOSELY RESEMBLE THE DETAILS OF THE PLAN AS THEY HAVE ALREADY BECOME KNOWN PIECE BY PIECE AND TO WHICH THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY RESPONDED NEGATIVELY.

WHAT IS PUZZLING RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT SOURCES IS WHY THE MAIN DETAILS OF THE PLAN HAVE BEEN LEAKED WITHIN DAYS OF THEIR OFFICIAL PRESENTATION.

THE SUSPICION HERE IS THAT THE LEAK WAS DESIGNED TO EMBARRASS MR. SMITH AND HIS GOVERNMENT IN THE CLOSING STAGES OF THE RHODESIAN ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN WHICH THE RIGHT-WING RHODESIAN ACTION PARTY IS ALREADY ACCUSING THE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LONDON 14314 01 OF 02 261427Z

GOVERNMENT OF SELLING OUT TO THE BRITISH AND AMERICANS. BUT THERE IS MYSTIFICATION IN GOVERNMENT CIRCLES AS TO WHAT PURPOSE IS BEING SERVED BY SO DOING. DR. OWEN, THE BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY, IS EXPECTED

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 14314 02 OF 02 261429Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 DHA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02

INR-07 L-03 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /079 W

-----071011 261436Z /43

O 261418Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7701

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 14314

TO ARRIVE HERE NEXT THURSDAY, THE DAY AFTER THE ELECTION TO GIVE MR. SMITH THE DETAILED, 8,000-WORD PLAN. AMONG WHITE RHODESIANS THE PROSPECT OF A BRITISH ADMINISTRATING-GOVERNOR IS CERTAIN TO BE GREETED WITH SUSPICION. THE BALD SUGGESTION THAT THE SECURITY FORCES SHOULD OR COULD BE DISBANDED IS QUITE BEYOND THE PALE IN THE EYES OF VIRTUALLY ALL WHITES AND A GOOD MANY BLACKS AS WELL. EQUALLY THE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES OF DISARMING THE NATIONALIST GUERRILLA FORCES APPEAR INSURMOUNTABLE. THE GOVERNMENT'S PROMOTION CAMPAIGN FOR AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WAS TAKEN A STAGE FURTHER TODAY WITH THE PRESENTATION IN THE LOCAL PRESS OF AN INTERVIEW WITH A MAN SAID TO BE A CAPTURED POLITICAL COMMISSAR OF THE ZIMBABWE AFRICAN NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY (ZANLA). IN A SHARP DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL PRACTICE THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LONDON 14314 02 OF 02 261429Z

RHODESIA HERALD WAS ALLOWED TO INTERVIEW THE MAN, NAME HIM AND PRINT HIS VIEWS. PREDICTABLY, IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, HE SAID THAT IF A POPULAR LEADER EMERGED FROM FUTURE POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS THERE WAS A GOOD CHANCE THAT THE "TERRORISTS IN THE FIELD" WOULD ACCEPT HIS LEADERSHIP AND LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS. THE CAPTURED POLITICAL COMMISSAR, IDENTIFIED BY HIS CODENAME, PFUMOREROPA (THE BLOODY SPEAR) CLAIMED THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND ITS LEADERS, MR. ROBERT MUGABE AND MR. JOSHUA NKOMO, DID NOT HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE MEN IN THE FIELD. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT MANY OF THE GUERRILLAS WANTED TO RETURN HOME AS SOON AS THEY SET FOOT IN RHODESIA. THEY WERE ALL HOMESICK BUT MANY WERE AFRAID OF BEING HANGED. MEANWHILE, THE REV. NDABANINGI SITHOLE, THE AFRICAN

NATIONALIST LEADER, WIDELY REGARDED AS BEING SYMPATHETIC TO AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WITH MR. SMITH, HAS EXPRESSED STRONG RESERVATIONS AT THE GOVERNMENT'S PRESENT INTENTIONS.

HE SAID MR. SMITH'S PLAN WAS "DOOMED TO FAILURE" IF HE INTENDED TO OPEN UP CABINET POSITIONS TO BLACKS ON A RESTRICTED POWER BASIS.

MR. SITHOLE ALSO SAID THAT THE IDEA OF EXCLUDING THE GUERRILLAS FROM THE SECURITY FORCES WAS BOTH "UN-REALISTIC AND DISASTROUS". END TEXT

STREATOR

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 26-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977LONDON14314  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770309-0578  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** LONDON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770819/aaaaaprf.tel  
**Line Count:** 182  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 80dd5b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1470725  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BRITISH PRESS ON OWEN-YOUNG MISSION  
**TAGS:** PDEV, OVIP, RH, UK, US, (YOUNG, ANDREW J), (OWEN, DAVID)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/80dd5b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009